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CEP-CDPATEP (2013) Award 3E

EUROPEAN LANDSCAPE CONVENTION

CEP-CDCPP

LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

3rd Session 2012-2013

– Report of the meeting of the Jury –

Palais de l'Europe, Council of Europe
16-17 May 2013

*Secretariat document
Directorate of Democratic Governance*

I. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING

1. Mrs Claudia LUCIANI, Director of Democratic Governance in the Council of Europe welcomed the members of the Jury to the 3rd Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe – Ms Mireille DECONINCK, Representative of the Steering Committee on Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP), Ms Anne-Marie CHAVANON, Representative of the Conference of INGOS of the Council of Europe, Mr Jean-François SEGUIN, Former Chair of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, Ms Jasminka CVEJIĆ, Professor on landscape at the University of Belgrade, Mrs Ingrid SARLÖV-HERLIN, Professor on landscape at the University of Alnarp –, and thanked them for their participation in this important meeting (list of participants in Appendix 1 to this report).

Mrs Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS, Head of Division, Policy Development, Responsible of the European Landscape Convention presented the draft agenda and the aims of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe.

a. Adoption of the draft agenda *[CEP-CDCPP (2013) Award 1E]*

2. The participants adopted the draft agenda as it appears in the Appendix 2 to this report.

b. General presentation of the work of the meeting *[CEP-CDCPP (2013) Award 2E]*

3. The European Landscape Convention provides for a Council of Europe Landscape Award. It states that, on proposals from the committees of experts supervising the implementation of the Convention, the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the Landscape Award, adopt the relevant rules and confer the award (Article 11).

The Committee of Ministers adopted Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe on 20 February 2008 (Appendix 3 to this report). The Award is in keeping with the work done by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development and that it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people's living conditions.

The Award was launched in 2008 and two sessions of the award were organized: in 2008-2009 and in 2010-2011.

According to the Resolution CM/Res(2008)3 on the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe and in the framework of the organisation of the 3rd Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe, the Parties to the Convention were invited to present through the Permanent Representatives of the Parties to the Convention by 15 December 2012 / 25 January 2013 the applications to the General Secretariat of the Council of Europe.

The Secretary General of the Council of Europe received 18 application files from the following Parties: Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, United Kingdom.

The international Jury being set up as a subordinate body of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention meet in order to examine the applications and propose the award and possible special mentions. Ms Mireille DECONINCK was elected by the CDCPP as its representative in the Jury (Decision of the Steering Committee for Culture, Cultural heritage and Landscape (CDCPP) at its 1st Plenary Session, Strasbourg, 14-16 May 2012, CDCPP(2012) 35 REV., Item 5.4.2).

At its 2nd Meeting (Strasbourg, 27-29 May 2013) the CDCPP will examine the proposals of the Jury and forward its proposals concerning the award winner, and, wherever appropriate, special mentions, to the Committee of Ministers.

In the light of the proposals of the CDCPP, the Committee of Ministers shall grant the award and any special mentions. The award and the special mentions shall be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, with the participation of the President of the CDCPP and of the President of the Council of Europe Conference on the European Landscape Convention, or their representatives at a public ceremony.

A presentation of the candidatures appears on the Council of Europe Website of the European Landscape Convention:

<http://www.coe.int/EuropeanLandscapeConvention>

Council of Europe Landscape Award

http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/heritage/Landscape/Prix/Session2013_en.asp

The candidatures which were awarded or recognised with special mentions will be presented at the 13th Council of Europe Meeting of the Workshops on the European Landscape Convention.

II. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR

4. The members of the Jury elected Mr Jean-François SEGUIN, Former Chair of the Council of Europe Conference of the European Landscape Convention, Chair of the Jury of the 3rd Session of the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. The Chair warmly welcomed and thanked all the States Parties to the Convention which had contributed with enthusiasm to this 3rd Session of the Landscape Award.

III. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECTS

[CEP-CDCPP (2013) Award 2E]

5. The Jury examined the complete files submitted to the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, presented by Ms Maguelonne DEJEANT-PONS and Ms Charlotte KOK:

1) Hoge Kempen National Park, Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw, Belgium

In the early 1990's, the situation in the Hoge Kempen region was as follows: the four present coalmines were closing and the landscape was intersected by roads and fragmented due to poor spatial planning. Several smaller nature reserves existed in the area but were separated from each other. The Hoge Kempen National Park (started in 1998, opened in 2006) turned this situation around. It is the framework that brings together every stakeholder or involved party. It is the tool for spatial and visual unification of the several nature reserves to a 5,700 ha combined heath land and forest area. It is leverage for the integration of local economic activities and the employment chance for socially vulnerable people. It is the blossoming of biodiversity, integrated landscape quality and sustainable tourism. It is a supported bottom-up approach.

2) Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or "Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape", Municipality of Strakonice, Czech Republic

The nominated educational project of the town of Strakonice is a set of interrelated one-year thematic cycles focusing on the landscapes of the Strakonice, Blatná and Vodňany Districts. Each sub-project demonstrates the uniqueness of the landscape in a natural, cultural and historical context and the way to read and understand the history of the region. In the complex approach of sustainable development it explains the need of protection and functional management of landscapes as a mutually interlinked and influenced setting. Through its comprehensive nature, the project increases general awareness

about the South Bohemian Region and helps people to gain healthy self-confidence and respect for the place where they were born and where they live. Every thematic cycle is accompanied by a quotation from the book “The Contemplative Landscape” (Země zamyšlená), written by a local artist Ladislav Stehlík (1st edition, 1947). Comparisons between this text, which is over fifty years old and the situation today, provide an inspirational view of the development of the South Bohemian landscapes.

3) The Landscape Projects of Hyypä Valley, City of Kauhajoki, Hyypä village association, Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services, Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia, Finland

Applicants have implemented major, long-term landscape maintenance through several projects. The base project is titled “The Establishment of the Hyypä Valley Landscape Conservation Area”. Within this project, the following have been achieved: a Preservation Plan, including definitions of the special landscape features and values, and numerous illustrated instructions for preservation actions; co-operation and confidence building among the 1200 landowners and villagers, the local municipality, regional and state authorities, specialist organisations, enterprises, international volunteers and local associations; 41.5 ha of landscape maintenance operations have been implemented; permanent action groups for landscape maintenance and a discussion forum for villagers, associations and authorities have been established; and a juridical Landscape Conservation Area in Hyypä has been founded by the Ministry of Environment, in the autumn of 2009.

4) Grand Pré Park, City of Langueux, France

Being a contemporary park in the small town of Langueux, Grand Pré Park links the village centre to Saint Briec and the wide horizons of the Yffignac Bay. The project creates a strong and friendly place that features elegant views in a new urbanity. Today, the city, fragmented by suburban housing, has a new urban quality. This is expressed on the one hand through a social project, which gives importance to a public space that generates diversity and exchanges between people, and secondly, through composed views and materials that recreate the visual relationship with the surrounding landscape and landmarks. Grand Pré Park becomes the new centrality of a city in the making.

5) Complex landscape rehabilitation and development programme in the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley, Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley (Tata), Hungary

The Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley was established in 1995 in order to promote the preservation and sustainable utilisation of the environment and rich natural/cultural heritage of the Által Creek Valley, a former industrial site struggling with numerous environmental challenges. Following its initial efforts aimed at protecting water quality, the Association made its activities more complex in 2002 when it decided to embark on the complex rehabilitation and development of the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley on the basis of ecological considerations. An outstanding achievement is the creation of the Gerecse Nature Park based on the sustainable use of natural/cultural heritage and born through the joint action of 29 communities in the region and other affected organisations. Consisting of local members, the Association performed all operations from planning to implementation in a systematic manner and with the involvement of other stakeholders.

6) Bere Island Conservation Plan, The Heritage Council and the Bere Island Project Group, Ireland

The Bere Island Conservation Plan was completed in 2002. The aim of the plan is to shape the sustainable future of the Island. The Conservation Plan demonstrates the value of a landscape approach to Island management. In line with the European Landscape Convention, the Conservation Plan was developed with the full involvement of the Bere Islanders who were proactive in developing strategies to protect and manage their landscape. It has resulted in a series of projects inspired by its

vision. The Conservation Plan and its projects are informing and shaping policy at a regional, national and European level. The Conservation Plan has also become a model of best practice for other European islands.

7) The rebirth of Alto Belice Corleonese through recovery of land confiscated by the mafia organisations, LIBERA Association names and number against the Mafia, Italy

Libera Terra's mission is to re-valorise the lands confiscated from mafia organisations starting from the creation and empowerment of social, independent and rural cooperatives, located on these lands, enabled to sustainably manage their business activities thus also contributing to the creation of induced employment as well as the spreading of a virtuous economic system. This Project determines the valorisation of landscape, culture, local identity, material and immaterial heritage based on legality, social justice and responsible and sustainable tourism. The "Placido Rizzotto-Libera Terra Cooperative" was the first experience of the kind by Libera Terra's in the region of Alto Belice Corleonese. This project concerned the recovery of an area of more than 500 hectares confiscated from mafia organisations and abandoned for many years, as well as rural buildings and historically relevant manor farms. Libera has promoted a recovery and re-qualification action on the aforesaid assets, focusing particularly on the enhancement in terms of nature maintenance and protection and rural and landscape recovery.

8) Dzintari Forest Park, Jurmala City Council, Latvia

Jūrmalas Forest Park is unique due to its location, because its thirteen hectares wide natural area is located in the centre of the city of Jurmala. The park's greatest assets are 200 years old pine tree grove and habitats, which are preserved intact to the present day, notwithstanding the rapid development of surrounding areas. Intensive development of public object construction around the nature territory increased significantly the number of visitors before the construction of the park. That could degrade park landscape in city centre. For that reason the idea was to arrange the natural landscape according with the new situation and incorporate nature into a city infrastructure and preserve natural and different aspects of the territory. Dzintari Forest Park preserving its wilderness values is holiday and recreation place to be enjoyed by all. The infrastructure objects in the park are evenly distributed along all park territory. The infrastructure elements allow the circulation above the ground by an elevated wooden planks walkway. The most important active recreation element is a roller-blade path, which is located in centre of the park. The skaters and pedestrians are separated by pedestrian bridge, within the park there are also skateboard parks, street ball courts and a sightseeing tower and playgrounds.

9) U-parks. U-turn we love, Utena district Municipality, Lithuania

Utena is the 10th largest Lithuanian town with the population of 34 000 (2012). In 1960-1990 industrial town enlarged in the expressive landscape preserving Nature frame (system of rivers, lakes, their valleys) in the area of 140 ha. Continued systems of natural areas preserved are ecologically important, but their aesthetic and recreational functions were not recognized. In 1990-1998 the processes of private property restoration and land privatisation proceeded in whole country. The municipality made great efforts to save these areas as public spaces. Combining the protection and management of the unique landscape gaining the recreational potential of the area, Utena District Municipality developed City Gardens in the town centre (2005), the Krašuona River riverside in the in the densely build up residential area (2009), Dauniškis (2005) and Vyžuona (2010) parks as central recreational areas (total area 50 ha).

10) Planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 National Landscapes in the Netherlands, Stichting Nationale Landschappen (NGO), the Netherlands

Since 2006 local and regional organisations have joined forces to protect landscape qualities and stimulate sustainable development in the twenty most valuable cultural landscapes in the Netherlands. Much has been invested in improving recreational facilities and accessibility and in raising public awareness. The Project was introduced and financially supported in the first years by the national government. Recently a new non-governmental organisation has been formed to secure protection and management in the future and improve cooperation of all parties involved, including local and regional authorities and private investors. This organisation is a non-profit foundation (Stichting Nationale Landschappen) with an executive office of its own (Servicenet Nationale Landschappen). New projects are being set up and new ways of financing are being organised.

11) Preserving ecological value in the landscape of the Szprotawa river valley, Lower Silesian Association of Landscape Parks, Poland

The Project allowed to promote:

- the conservation of plant communities classified as *Molinion* and *Arrhenatherion elatioris*;
- the conversion of a former Soviet airbase into wetland meadows covering 500 hectares;
- the implementation of measures to raise and maintain groundwater level at the protected site;
- the preservation of traditional land management practices on the protected site: polder;
- the re-establishment of nesting grounds for aquatic and wetland birds;
- the removal of Soviet military earthworks;
- the interruption of replacement by willow trees;
- the establishment of eco-agricultural program and grazing by cattle, sheep and horses;
- the re-establishment of the use of meadows for pasturage to preserve low peat bogs;
- the long-term vocational activation among the Rom population to counter poverty and exclusion;
- the preservation of bird reserves species listed in Appendix I of the Birds Directive and in the Polish Red Book;
- the conversion of the heating system from traditional coal-based to eco-friendly biomass-based in the headquarters of the Lower Silesian Association of Landscape parks and in the village of Wyszoka.

12) Furnas Landscape Laboratory (Furnas LandLab), Azores Regional Directorate of the Environment, Portugal

The intensification of dairy farms in the last decades has led to the eutrophication of Furnas Lake. Therefore, to restore its water quality a legally binding Furnas Watershed Plan took place, aiming at a major change of the soil use. It was a turning point in the landscape management and economic activities of the last decades. Since 2007 about 300 ha of agricultural land within the watershed were bought by the Azorean Government, which enabled the management team to implement an ambitious plan. Furnas Landscape Laboratory, a future multifunctional forest landscape was created to act as a large experimental ground, pioneer in Azores, to implement new ecological restoration techniques, economical activities and management practices, promoting a wide spread public involvement, to achieve sustainability at all levels (ecologic, economic, social, cultural and aesthetic). Although much has already been achieved and finished since 2007, the project is on-going with no conclusion date.

13) ADEPT – Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection in Transylvania, ADEPT Foundation, NGO, Romania

The Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection (ADEPT) project was implemented by the ADEPT Foundation in the period May 2006-March 2009, financed under the Darwin Initiative and co-financed by Orange Romania and the UK Government (Defra). The project was initiated in the Târnava Mare area as a response to the threats to the semi-natural landscapes in Southern

Transylvania, threats stemming both from land abandonment and agriculture intensification as well as from lack of recognition. The goal was to facilitate the conservation and traditional management of the Târnava Mare semi-natural landscape, while increasing local benefits through the sustainable use of ecosystems. The project met its targets and developed a wider significance, with impact on national and EU policy towards High Nature Value Farmland (HNVF) areas.

14) The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje, NGO ‘Podunav’ Backi Monostor, Serbia

The main goal of the project is a sustainable development of the entire region through eco and rural tourism development, which includes the engagement of the whole local community, causing a social and economic welfare with nature and landscape preservation. The connection of local culture and historic heritage in harmony with nature and its promotion as an eco and rural tourist destination provides a social, cultural and aesthetic sustainability. That also provides a chance for a new quality development through new ways of nature preservation, tradition preservation and new jobs for a local community. The project is a partnership between local and regional institutions, including the non-governmental and civil sector, including the local community.

15) Salvage, Revival and Operation of the Forest Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog, Ciernohronska železnica NGO, Slovak Republic

The project “Salvage, Revival and Operation of the Forest Railway in Landscape of Cierny Balog” was awarded by the Landscape Award of the Slovak Republic 2012 for bringing the people back to their landscape through the revival of a technical monument in the landscape, for restoring the identity of Cierny Balog Region and for retaining its cultural heritage. The project is an exemplary model of how people can really make a positive change by the bottom up approach to the decaying landscape. A high number of the enthusiasts and volunteers, local citizens, as well as invited experts – through combining their enthusiasm, wisdom, memory, efforts, time, expertise, money, planning abilities, and management skills have renewed the original vision – the purpose and the operation of the historic forest railway, which was facing the deliberate extinction by the not appropriate official decision from the last century. The people were able to persuade everybody, that the forest railway gives the additional value to their landscape as a main artery of their region. The forest railway, a symbol of the sustainable wood cutting practice of the previous generation in the region, today represents the living historic form of the landscape, which has contributed significantly towards the characteristic appearance, new life opportunities, prosperity, and well known reputation of the Cierny Hron Valley in Slovakia.

16) Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve, DOPPS, BirdLife Slovenia, Slovenia

The project was aiming to recreate the typical coastal wetland landscape of Škocjanski zatok Nature Reserve, the largest brackish wetland in Slovenia, after the past degradation in the 1980s. This resulted in the restored semi-natural coastal wetland ecosystem, landscape and its natural processes, thus posing remedy to the environmental burdens from the past, in conservation and enhancement of the typical brackish and freshwater habitats supporting fauna and flora of EU and national importance with a strong exemplary value, and in the organisation of the wetland centre – nature reserve open to the public. Visitors from Slovenia and elsewhere nowadays enjoy the area for education, recreation and a high-quality nature experience. The local community awareness was raised and a positive attitude stimulated with public participation throughout the project which also contributed towards better life quality and sustainable development of the Slovenian coast.

17) The sustainable revitalisation of the protected landscape of Geria, Consortium for the defense and promotion of the Geria Landscape, Spain

Geria is an exceptional volcanic farmland for its outstanding landscape and heritage values. It is exemplary for the combination of human intervention and environmental sustainability. The area went

into decline in the late twentieth century due to the expansion of the service economy that has adversely affected agriculture on the Lanzarote. To reverse this trend, public and private agents have tried to create a new framework and have implemented actions to achieve a new appreciation of its unique history and its economic opportunities. Revitalisation of a heritage awareness campaign, food and wine innovation, active tourism or land rehabilitation is the answers to the preservation and conservation of a unique agricultural system in the world.

18) South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project, Pennine Prospects, United Kingdom

The South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project seeks to tell the story of the landscape in terms of both the historic and natural environment. Located between Leeds and Manchester, more than a million people live in or around the South Pennine uplands yet they can still feel remote, wild and exhilarating. This unique landscape has been an inspiration to artists and writers from the Brontës to Ted Hughes. There are significant pressures, e.g., the peat resources are in the front line of the battle to mitigate climate change. Engaging local communities through projects based on science, archaeology and creative arts has improved understanding of the value of the landscape. Managed by Pennine Prospects (a rural regeneration non-Government organisation), working with volunteers and providing training has enabled more people to be directly involved in caring for and managing this fragile landscape.

IV. DELIBERATION AND DECISION OF THE JURY

6. The Jury:

- appreciated the important work done by the Parties to the Convention at national level in order to select the projects submitted in accordance to the European Landscape Convention;
- recognised the great value of the eighteen achievements presented, which consider the landscape as an area perceived by the populations, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors and which have allowed measures to be taken aimed at the protection, management and planning of landscapes according to the provisions of the European Landscape Convention.

The Jury issued the following opinion:

“The 18 candidatures are the result of national decisions, and are all therefore excellent projects, making the Jury’s task very difficult.

The Jury was guided by the criteria set out in the Landscape Award rules. The national political, historical and economic situation had an influence on the assessment of the candidatures presenting innovations at national level, inspired by the European Landscape Convention.

The 18 candidatures confirm that landscape policy is not a sectoral policy, but a cross-cutting one. Protecting, managing and planning landscapes enable answers to be found to environmental, social and economic questions.

The special mentions do not reflect a value judgment differentiating between candidatures; in deciding to give special mentions to three projects, the Jury wished to focus attention on certain original or crucial aspects.

The Jury points out to candidates that the information in the files supplied sometimes disadvantaged their candidature. The supply of videos and relevant maps is recommended.”

7. After deliberation, the Jury thus considered the necessity to:
- acknowledge the great value of all the following achievements, presented for the 3rd Session 2012-2013 of the Council of Europe Landscape Award of the European Landscape Convention, through an official recognition of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe;
 - in the framework of the Council of Europe activities, make them well-known to the general public, as exemplary, of great value and as a source for inspiration:

**Hoge Kempen National Park
Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland vzw, Belgium**

Hoge Kempen National Park uses an integrated approach which makes possible greater coherence, defragmentation and new impetus to an area from which the mining industry has departed. The park, adjacent to a garden city, remains faithful to the principles of such cities, fostering co-operation and stimulating the parties concerned. This project is intended to increase public interest in the protection and enhancement of this landscape.

**Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or
“Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape”
Municipality of Strakonice, Czech Republic**

The environmental education project of the town of Strakonice, a national pilot project, is an on-going process of an enduring nature, one which takes account of previous management. It brings all generations together through a series of “thematic cycles” referring to the intangible values of the places concerned (history and legend, poetry, painting, folk arts...) so as to give a better description of the landscape and “give it a soul”. The Jury was interested by the growing awareness of the sense of belonging to a “European” landscape. Active public participation in the restoration and maintenance of ‘small heritage’ was appreciated.

**The Landscape Projects of Hyyppä Valley, City of Kauhajoki, Hyyppä village association
Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services, Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia, Finland**

The Hyyppä Valley landscape projects involve a wide variety of players. The public is viewed on the same level as the public authorities and is involved in the definition of objectives, implementation of activities and monitoring of the results achieved. The strong point of this candidature is involvement of both volunteers and the national forestry department in the activities. The projects carried out have helped to highlight landscapes’ value and to promote the social and aesthetic values of the communities concerned.

**Grand Pré Park
City of Langueux, France**

The Grand Pré Park occupies 12 hectares between an urban and a natural landscape. It is therefore a convivial place restoring its coherence to a fragmented area of land. It opens up links with the surrounding villages and spaces. This park is suitable for many recreational uses and offers an opportunity to engage in educational activity to promote sustainable development. The aim of the project is to express a new urban quality, and it has altered the “workers’ dormitory” image of Langueux. It strives to offer areas where it is easy for people to meet, irrespective of their social background.

**Complex landscape rehabilitation and development program in
the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley
Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley (Tata), Hungary**

The long-term complex landscape rehabilitation and development programme in the Gerecse Mountains and the Által Creek Valley, carried out by a non-governmental organisation, combines protection of the environment with responsible tourism. Through a comprehensive approach, a former mining site has been rehabilitated and damaged ecosystems restored. The involvement of numerous – public and private – partners has made an ordinary landscape extraordinary, conducive to the development of ecotourism. The landscape has been planned in line with the European Landscape Convention. This simultaneously environmental and social project has enabled the public to return to former practices. The high level of participation and quality of governance were appreciated by the jury.

**Bere Island Conservation Plan
The Heritage Council and the Bere Island Project Group, Ireland**

The Bere Island Conservation Plan is a sound plan representing an exemplary approach and fulfilling all the criteria for the Council of Europe Landscape Award, particularly where public participation and awareness-raising are concerned. It involves various participants (local people, universities in the framework of the Erasmus programme, the army...). The project brings nature and the economy together and offers waste management solutions. It is subject to integrated management using the resources available, and is linked to every sector of island life. It has resulted in stabilisation of the island's population. The depopulation of rural areas is a problem on a European scale. This project seems therefore to have the right dimension and to set a useful example.

**Dzintari Forest Park
Jurmala City Council, Latvia**

Dzintari Forest Park aims to preserve a natural enclave of 13 ha in the city centre. This planning of the urban landscape for recreational and leisure purposes has successfully made room at this site to accommodate skateboarders and pedestrians. The Jury appreciated the development of democratic processes to satisfy public aspirations in terms of quality of the environment.

**Planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 National Landscapes in
The Netherlands
Stichting Nationale Landschappen (NGO), Netherlands**

The planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 national landscapes in the Netherlands covers a significant expanse of exceptional landscapes considered to be representative of the Netherlands. The identification of such landscapes is certainly within the scope of the European Landscape Convention. The file submitted to the Jury, however, did not contain enough information to make a more well-founded assessment.

**Furnas Landscape Laboratory (Furnas LandLab)
Azores Regional Directorate of the Environment, Portugal**

The Furnas Landscape Laboratory represents an example of good practice which will be useful to other countries. The regaining of water quality, return to a kind of agriculture more respectful of the natural substrate and the eradication of invasive species are the project's strong points. The very detailed file, which certainly corresponds to the terms of the European Landscape Convention, gives off a feeling of high energy. Activities seem to be on a huge scale and will require numerous resources, provided by many volunteers and, to some extent, European Structural Funds. Nevertheless, additional information would have made possible a better understanding of the interest attached to the history and spirit of the area and to the character of the landscape.

**ADEPT – Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection in Transylvania
ADEPT Foundation, NGO, Romania**

The project on Agricultural Development and Environmental Protection in Transylvania is of interest, for it combines economics and ecology. The aim is to perpetuate an agricultural system which promotes biodiversity. The approach adopted presents a level of integration which would deserve to be increased. The ADEPT Foundation has involved several participants and brought national and European, public and private partners into action. Ultimately, this project should be able to incorporate landscape quality objectives.

**Salvage, revival and operation of the Forest Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog
Ciernohronska železnica NGO, Slovak Republic**

The Salvage, Revival and Operation of the Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog project concerns the highlighting of a technical aspect of the heritage, the forest railway of Cierny Balog. The involvement of 1,500 volunteers was appreciated. However, the Jury could not identify enough in the candidature file the true link between train and landscape. In the context of the Council of Europe Landscape Award, the project should offer a better identification of the objectives linked to the magnificent Carpathian landscape.

**Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve, DOPPS
BirdLife Slovenia, Slovenia**

The landscape and water-management restoration project relating to Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve concerns a coastal wetland. Thanks to the project, urban and industrial sprawl have been successfully halted, something very important in this limited coastal area. Managed by BirdLife Slovenia, the project benefits from significant national and European Union (LIFE) support, without which it would be impossible to curb urban and industrial pressure. The file presenting the project, although incomplete, clearly shows public participation in the planning process and a good level of public awareness. The planning process incorporates nature protection and attention to the landscape.

**The sustainable revitalisation of the protected landscape of Geria
Consortium for the defense and promotion of the Geria Landscape, Spain**

This project relates to an outstanding landscape with few equivalents in Europe. The landscape can be maintained only through stubborn human effort without mechanical assistance. The revitalisation of this site, which has UNESCO Biosphere Reserve status, is the outcome of a rigorous approach combining environment, aesthetics and economics. Not only is wine-growing viable, it also creates jobs. The decision to engage in sustainable agri-tourism is helping to revitalise the landscape. Public participation is strong at every level of decision-making, and awareness is raised of all aspects of landscape and environment.

**South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project
Pennine Prospects, United Kingdom**

Located close to major cities, the South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project fully meets the Landscape Award criteria and complies with the provisions of the European Landscape Convention. This area is made available to many and varied urban populations. The candidature provides a textbook example of public awareness-raising, and the jury appreciated the quality of the videos included in the file. The complex project is representative of the long and sound tradition of integrated work on the landscape in the United Kingdom. Landscape planning is a process which necessitates constant efforts and investments. The progress made needs to be consolidated and continued on an ongoing basis. The Jury therefore encourages the many participants in this project to develop it further.

8. After deliberation, the Jury decided unanimously:
- a) To attribute identical special mentions of Council of Europe Landscape Award of the European Landscape Convention for the 3rd Session 2012-2013 to the three following achievements:

The rebirth of Alto Belice Corleonese through recovery of land confiscated by the mafia organisations
LIBERA TERRA Association names and number against the Mafia, Italy

Special mention for strengthening democracy

The project on the rebirth of Alto Belice Corleonese through recovery of land confiscated by mafia organisations relates to the reappropriation of land that had been confiscated by the Mafia. This candidature was of great interest to the jury. It encompasses a combination of the Council of Europe's principles: human rights, rule of law and democracy. Landscape is both the instrument and the result. The project is as much political as economic, and produces a landscape which highlights the local identity and culture. It restores the cultural dimension of the landscape and the quality of the natural environment. Organic production and local processing of farm products, the development of renewable energies and the restoration of the heritage all provide job opportunities for vulnerable populations. The outstanding level of volunteer mobilisation is one of the project's strong points.

U-parks. U-turn we love
Utena district Municipality, Lithuania

Special mention for giving attention to the urban landscape as a common good

The "U-parks. U-turn we love" project for the reclamation of a public park network in urban areas caught the jury's attention because it counterbalances the wave of land privatisation that followed the end of the Soviet era. Here public land regains its importance and can be enjoyed by everyone on a daily basis. This system of urban parks is a fine exercise in landscape planning as applied to individual and collective well-being. The landscape is regarded as a common good, enabling participatory practice to be developed. This candidature undeniably has a sustainable development dimension. The involvement of the landscape architects' association and the use of parks as "teaching areas" for future professionals interested the Jury.

The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje
NGO 'Podunav' Backi Monostor, Serbia

Special mention for contributing to European ideals

The location of the "Gate of Gornje Podunavlje" project on the banks of the Danube in the historic region of Backi Monostor has enabled some particularly interesting cross-border and multi-ethnic objectives to be pursued. The jury appreciated the attention given to the Serb, Croat, Hungarian, Roma and Šokci heritages with a view to a shared European identity. This candidature reflects a public commitment to better economic and social well-being and, at the same time, to the preservation of landscapes' character. Within a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, this project takes a well-adapted integrated approach. The development of cross-border ecotourism, in conjunction with a return to agricultural production geared to traditional diets, is enabling the numbers of young people leaving the countryside to be reduced.

- b) To attribute the Council of Europe Landscape Award of the European Landscape Convention for the 3rd Session 2012-2013 to:

**Preserving ecological value in the landscape of the Szprotawa river valley
Lower Silesian Association of Landscape Parks, Poland**

Winner of the Council of Europe Landscape Award

The project on preserving ecological value in the landscape of the Szprotawa river valley is the winner of the 3rd Session of the Council of Europe Landscape Award 2012-2013 considering that it meets the four criteria of the rules on the Landscape Award. The integrated approach goes beyond the single dimension of biodiversity and associates nature with culture and population. Thus the project offers a model that others might follow. It shows a good level of participation by the parties concerned in both decision-making and land management. The farmers and beekeepers are stakeholders; the project has also enabled apparently conflicting economic interests to be reconciled. The aesthetic dimension is present and enables the different generations' awareness to be raised effectively. The environment is also taken into consideration: the project relates to the rehabilitation of a former Soviet military base, as well as to increased use of biomass as a source of energy.

The involvement of Roma in the decision-making process and, in future, in the management of the restored land was of particular interest to the jury. In dealing with the issue of minority populations and their involvement in land management, this project represents progress in "living together" at European level which should be applauded.

V. GENERAL OBSERVATIONSS

9. The members of the Jury underlined that the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe constitutes an important means of promoting awareness-raising of the landscape dimension, according to the provisions of the European Landscape Convention and that it would be most desirable for all Parties to participate in the 4th Session which will be organised in 2014-2015.

VI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

10. The Chair thanked the members of the Jury and the Secretariat for their excellent work and brought the meeting to a close.

APPENDIX 1

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Representative of the Steering Committee for Culture, Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)

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[Apologized for absence / Excusé]

Representative of the Conference of INGOS of the Council of Europe

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Interpreters

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Mr Nicolas GUITTONNEAU

Ms Christine TRAPP

APPENDIX 2

AGENDA

- I. WELCOME AND OPENING OF THE MEETING
 - Adoption of the draft agenda
[CEP-CDCPP (2013) Award 1E]
 - General presentation of the work of the meeting
[CEP-CDCPP (2013) Award 2E]
- II. ELECTION OF THE CHAIR
- III. PRESENTATION OF THE PROJECTS
- IV. DEBATE AND DECISION OF THE JURY
- V. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS
- VI. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

APPENDIX 3

RESOLUTION CM/RES(2008)3 ON THE RULES GOVERNING THE LANDSCAPE AWARD OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

*(Adopted by the Committee of Ministers on 20 February 2008 at the 1018th meeting
of the Ministers' Deputies)*

The Committee of Ministers,

Recalling that Article 11 of the European Landscape Convention (ETS No. 176) (hereinafter “the Convention”), adopted by the Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe on 19 July 2000 and opened for signature in Florence on 20 October 2000, institutes the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe (hereinafter “the award”);

Bearing in mind that this article provides that the Committee of Ministers shall define and publish the criteria for conferring the award, adopt the relevant rules and grant the award;

Bearing in mind that the award’s purpose is to reward exemplary practical initiatives for the achievement of landscape quality objectives on the territories of parties to the Convention (hereinafter “the Parties”);

Considering that the award is in keeping with the work done by the Council of Europe in favour of human rights, democracy and sustainable development and that it promotes the territorial dimension of human rights and democracy by acknowledging the importance of measures taken to improve the landscape features of people’s living conditions;

Convinced that the award is intended to heighten civil society’s awareness of the value of landscapes, of their role and of changes to them,

Resolves as follows:

- I. The rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are adopted as set out in the appendix to this resolution.
- II. The criteria for awarding the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe are appended to these rules.
- III. The Parties are invited to translate into their national language(s) and promote the rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe. They are also requested to encourage media coverage of the award so as to raise public awareness of the importance of landscapes.

Appendix to Resolution CM/Res(2008)3

Rules governing the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Article 1 – Aim

a. The award is an honorary distinction which acknowledges a policy or measures implemented by local or regional authorities or their groupings, or particularly remarkable contributions by non-governmental organisations, for sustainable protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. It takes the form of a diploma. Special mentions may also be awarded.

b. The award rewards a process of implementation of the Convention at national or transnational levels resulting in an effective, measurable achievement.

c. The award also helps to make people more aware of the importance of landscapes for human development, consolidation of the European identity and the well-being of individuals and society as a whole. It fosters public participation in the decision-making process concerning landscape policies.

Article 2 – Qualification of candidates

In accordance with Article 11, paragraph 1, of the Convention, the following may be candidates for the award: local or regional authorities and their groupings that have instituted, as part of the landscape policy of a party to this Convention, a policy or measures to protect, manage and/or plan their landscape, which have proved lastingly effective and can thus serve as an example to other territorial authorities in Europe. Non-governmental organisations having made particularly remarkable contributions to landscape protection, management or planning may also be candidates.

In accordance with paragraph 2 of the above-mentioned article, transfrontier local or regional authorities and groupings of local and regional authorities concerned may be candidates, provided that they jointly manage the landscape in question.

Article 3 – Procedure

The procedure consists of three stages:

Stage 1 – Submission of candidatures

Each Party may submit one candidature to the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe. The candidature may be the result of a competition held by each Party taking into account the award criteria appended to these rules.

The application file, in one of the official languages of the Council of Europe (French or English), shall include:

- a presentation of the candidate (not more than three pages long);
- the description of a completed project for the protection, management and/or planning of a landscape, which has proved lastingly effective and can serve as an example. Mention shall be made of the convention provision concerned.

The description shall take the form of a paper document, approximately 20 pages long, accompanied by a digital copy in PDF format on CD-Rom and posters. The file may also include a video presentation lasting approximately five minutes. The materials submitted must be copyright-free for use by the Council of Europe in communications aimed at promoting the award or any other publications or activities relating to the Convention. The Council of Europe undertakes to cite the authors' names.

Files that are incomplete or fail to comply with the rules will not be taken into consideration.

The award is in principle conferred every two years. The files presenting candidatures must reach the Secretariat General of the Council of Europe by no later than 31 December of the year preceding the year of award.

Stage 2 – Consideration of candidatures

An international jury set up as a subordinate body of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹ shall determine whether candidatures are admissible. The jury is composed of:

- one member of (each of) the committee(s) of experts responsible for monitoring the Convention, appointed by the committee(s) concerned;
- one member of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe, appointed by the Congress;
- one representative of an international non-governmental organisation, appointed by the Secretary General on the proposal of the Grouping of INGOs enjoying participatory status with the Council of Europe;
- three eminent specialists on landscape, appointed by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe.

The jury appoints a president.

The jury proposes the award winner from among the candidates admitted.

The proposals of the jury are taken by an absolute majority for the first two rounds of voting, and by a relative majority for the following round, based on the criteria set out in the appendix to these rules, stating the reasons for its choice. In case of equal votes, the vote of the president of the jury is decisive.

The reasons for the choice are explained.

The jury can propose to attribute one or more special mentions.

The committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹ examine the proposals of the jury and forward their proposals concerning the award winner, and, wherever appropriate, special mentions, to the Committee of Ministers.

Stage 3 – Granting and presentation of the award and the special mentions

In the light of the proposals of the committees of experts referred to in Article 10 of the Convention¹, the Committee of Ministers shall grant the award and any special mentions.

The award and the special mentions shall be presented by the Secretary General of the Council of Europe or his/her representative at a public ceremony.

¹ On 30 January 2008, the Committee of Ministers decided to attribute this competence to the Steering Committee for Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDPATEP) [replaced on 1st January 2012 by the Steering Committee for Culture, Cultural Heritage and Landscape (CDCPP)].

Appendix to the rules

Criteria for conferring the Landscape Award of the Council of Europe

Criterion 1 – Sustainable territorial development

The completed projects submitted must give tangible form to the protection, management and/or planning of landscapes. This means that the projects must have been completed and open to the public at least three years, when the candidatures were submitted.

They must also:

- be part of a sustainable development policy and be in harmony with the territorial organisation of the area concerned;
- demonstrate their environmental, social, economic, cultural and aesthetic sustainability;
- counter or remedy any damage to landscape structures;
- help enhance and enrich the landscape and develop new qualities.

Criterion 2 – Exemplary value

The implementation of the policy or measures that have helped to improve the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned must set an example of good practice for others to follow.

Criterion 3 – Public participation

The policy or measures implemented with a view to the protection, management and/or planning of the landscapes concerned should involve the active participation of the public, local and regional authorities and other players and should clearly reflect the landscape quality objectives.

The public should be able to participate simultaneously in two ways:

- through dialogue and exchanges between members of society (public meetings, debates, procedures for participation and consultation in the field, for example);
- through procedures for public participation and involvement in landscape policies implemented by national, regional or local authorities.

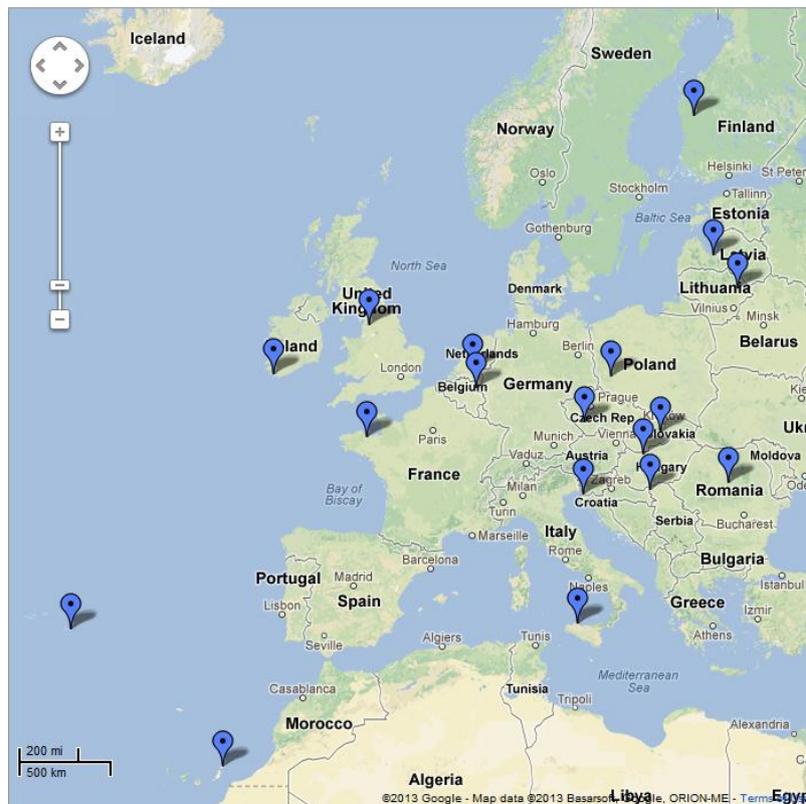
Criterion 4 – Awareness-raising

Article 6.A of the Convention provides that “each Party undertakes to increase awareness among civil society, private organisations and public authorities of the value of landscapes, their role and changes to them”. Action along these lines taken as part of the completed project concerned will be assessed.

* * *

APPENDIX 4

LOCATION OF THE PROJECTS



Source: Google Maps 2013

-  Hoge Kempen National Park, Regionaal Landschap Kempen en Maasland zvw, Belgium
-  Environmental education in the town of Strakonice year by year or ' Pilgrimage through the Contemplative Landscape, Municipality of Strakonice, Czech Republic
-  The Landscape Projects of Hyyppä Valley, City of Kauhajoki, Hyyppä village association, The Finnish Forestry Centre/Public Services/The Unit of South and Central Ostrobothnia, Finland
-  Parc du Grand Pré, Ville de Langueux, France
-  Complex landscape rehabilitation and development program in the Gerecsé Mountains and the Által Creek Valley, The Association for the Restoration and Development of the Által Creek Valley (Tata), Hungary
-  Bere Island Conservation Plan, The Heritage Council and the Bere Island Project Group, Ireland
-  The rebirth of Alto Belice Corleonese from the recovery of land confiscated from the mafia organisations, LIBERA Associazioni Nomi e Numeri contro le mafie, Italy
-  Dzintari Forest Park, Jurmala City Council, Latvia
-  U-parks. U-turn we love, Utena district Municipality, Lithuania
-  Planning policy for conservation and sustainable development of 20 National Landscapes in the Netherlands, Stichting Nationale Landschappen (NGO), Netherlands
-  Preserving ecological value in the landscape of the Szprotawa river valley, Lower Silesian Association of Landscape Parks, Poland
-  Furnas Landscape Laboratory (Furnas LandLab), Azores Regional Directorate of the Environment (Direção Regional do Ambiente), Portugal
-  ADEPT – Agricultural Development & Environmental Protection in Transylvania, ADEPT Foundation, NGO, Romania
-  The Gate of Gornje Podunavlje, NGO 'Podunav' Backi Monostor, Serbia
-  Salvage, Revival, and Operation of the Forest Railway in the Landscape of Cierny Balog, Ciernohronska zeleznica NGO, Slovak Republic
-  Landscape and water-management restoration of Škocjanski Zatok nature reserve, DOPPS – BirdLife, Slovenia
-  Revitalisation durable du Paysage Protégé de la Geria, Consortium pour la Défense et la Promotion de l'espace de la Geria, Spain
-  South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project, Pennine Prospects, United Kingdom